

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1.(Currently Amended) A battery pack, including: a plurality of batteries $[(2)]$; and a plurality of holding frames $[(3)]$ capable of accommodating and holding the batteries $[(2)]$, respectively, so as to provide spaces ~~(10a, 10b)~~ therebetween, both side faces of each of the holding frames $[(3)]$, that are opposed to each other, being opened to form openings, wherein the holding frames $[(3)]$ that accommodate and hold the batteries $[(2)]$, respectively, are arranged with their openings aligned, at both ends of the arranged holding frames $[(3)]$, end plates ~~(4a, 4b)~~ being arranged that are jointed together with the holding frames $[(3)]$ as one unit, the holding frames $[(3)]$ and the end plates ~~(4a, 4b)~~ that are jointed forming an outer case $[(5)]$ for accommodating the plurality of batteries $[(2)]$ and for forming a cooling space $[(6)]$ to surround each battery $[(2)]$.

2.(Currently Amended) A battery pack, including: a plurality of batteries $[(2)]$ each having an oval or oblong cross-sectional shape; and a plurality of holding frames $[(3)]$ each of which accommodates and holds each

of the batteries $[(2)]$ therein with spaces ~~(10a, 10b)~~ provided outside both ends of the battery $[(2)]$ in the longitudinal direction and outside one side face of the battery $[(2)]$, each of the holding frames $[(3)]$ being formed by a rectangular frame having opened side faces that face both side faces of the battery $[(2)]$, wherein the holding frames $[(3)]$ that accommodate and hold the batteries $[(2)]$, respectively, are arranged with the opened side faces thereof aligned, at both ends of the arranged holding frames, end plates ~~(4a, 4b)~~ being arranged that are jointed together with the holding plates $[(3)]$ as one unit, the holding frames $[(3)]$ and the end plates ~~(4a, 4b)~~ that are jointed forming an outer case $[(5)]$ for accommodating the plurality of batteries $[(2)]$ therein and for forming cooling spaces $[(6)]$ outside both ends of the respective batteries $[(2)]$ and between the side faces of the respective batteries $[(2)]$.

3.(Currently Amended) The battery pack according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein

each of the holding frames $[(3)]$ is provided with a gas-discharge passage portion $[(18)]$ for sealing and covering a space surrounding a gas-discharge port $[(8)]$ provided in the battery $[(2)]$ and having connection ports ~~(19a, 19b)~~ opened at both side faces of that holding frame $[(3)]$.

4.(Currently Amended) The battery pack according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein

connection terminals ~~(7a, 7b)~~ are provided in each battery ~~[(2)]~~, and a space ~~[(12)]~~ for allowing the connection terminals ~~(7a, 7b)~~ to be arranged therein is formed in each holding frame ~~[(3)]~~.

5.(Currently Amended) A holding frame for a battery, formed by a rectangular frame that accommodates and holds a battery ~~[(2)]~~ having an oval or oblong cross-sectional shape and has opened side faces that are opposed to both side faces of the battery ~~[(2)]~~, wherein spaces ~~(10a, 10b)~~ are provided outside both ends of the battery ~~[(2)]~~ in the longitudinal direction of the battery ~~[(2)]~~ and outside at least one side face of the battery ~~[(2)]~~, while the holding frame accommodates and holds the battery.

6.(Currently Amended) The holding frame for a battery according to claim 5, wherein

a gas-discharge passage portion ~~[(18)]~~, for sealing and covering a space surrounding a gas-discharge port ~~[(8)]~~ provided in the battery ~~[(2)]~~ and having connection ports ~~(19a, 19b)~~ opened at both side faces thereof, is further provided.